

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... May



May means spring has finally arrived! Many people start planting their gardens with flowers and vegetables. May will have some rainy days and hopefully lots of sunny days. Whatever happens with the weather, there are still lots of new things to talk about! With the warmth of Spring we will also see lots of mini beasts at home and around the Nursery garden. Try these activities, songs, books and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Planting a garden



Let your child help you when you work in the garden

- They can dig in the dirt beside you with their toy shovel or a spoon
- Have them count how many rocks and worms she finds while digging
- When planting seeds, she can help by putting seeds in each spot in the ground
- Talk about what the seed will grow into
- With your help, your child can put water on the planted seeds. Talk about how the plants need some water, but not too much!
- Look for all sorts of mini beasts - in the garden, on bushes and flowers and have great fun looking under rocks and stones to see what creatures are living there



Rainy Days

Adults like to stay inside when it rains, but children like to play in the puddles. Put on your rubber boots and try splashing in puddles together.

- Talk about the clothes you need to play in the rain - raincoat, umbrella, hood, rain, hat, rubber boots, and rain pants
- See who can make the biggest splash
- Go for a walk and count how many puddles you can find
- Keep an eye out for the worms on the pavement. Explain that they don't like to stay in the ground when it rains. Count how many

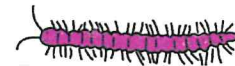


Slugs and bugs



Browse through books or magazines for pictures of mini beasts. Help your child to identify them by name. Compare them for size, shape, wings, legs and discuss where they might be found.

Talk to your child about treating small creatures with care



Out and about

As you walk in the streets, gardens or park together, point out small creatures you come across. Draw attention to colour, the way the creature moves, what it is feeding on or where it is living.



Mathematics

Find a picture of a ladybird, or better still the real thing! Count the black spots of the ladybird's back.

If you can find a centipede or caterpillar point out the large number of legs these insects have. Compare them to the number of legs a spider has, using language such as "more" and "less".

Songs and Rhymes

I'm a little flower pot

(sung to the tune of I'm a little teapot)

I'm a little flower pot, mum put out.
If you take care of me, I will sprout.
When you water me, I will grow,
Into a pretty flower don't you know?



Little Arabella Millar

Little Arabella Millar
Found a woolly caterpillar
First she put it on her mother
Then upon her baby brother
They said "Arabella Millar
Take away that caterpillar".


Incy Wincy Spider

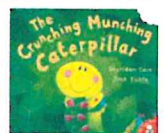
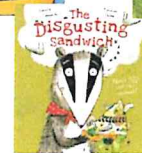
Incy Wincy Spider 
Climbing up the spout
Down came the rain
And washed poor Incy out.
Out came the sunshine
And dried up all the rain
Incy Wincy Spider
Climbed up the spout again.

Ants

There's a hole in the path
Where an ant came through
And then came another, So that made two
Two ants started to climb a tree
But then came another, So that made three
Three little ants, Then one ant more
Altogether, That made four
Four little ants, Climbed up that tree
But the fifth little ant, Climbed up me.

Here is the Beehive

Here is the beehive, Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees
Watch & you'll see them come out of the hive
1,2,3,4,5
Bzzzzzzz..... all fly away. 



Remember to ...

Follow your child's lead

Add new words and ideas

Repeat new words over and over

Non Fiction Titles

Mini beasts on a Plant by Franklin Watts 
Life as a Butterfly by Little Nippers
Life the Flap, Bugs & Slugs by Usborne Books

Fiction Titles

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson
The Disgusting Sandwich by Gareth Edwards & Hannah Shaw
Superword by Julia Donaldson
The Crunching Munching Caterpillar by Cain and Tickle
The Bad Tempered Ladybird by Finn & Tickle
Buzz Bumble to the Rescue by Lynn Hazen
Bee Wiggled by Cece Bell 

Crafts

Egg Carton Spiders



- Using scissors carefully cut one of the corner sections from a cardboard egg box.
- Use the tip of a pen to push 8 small holes around the sides of the section
- For the legs, push a long pipe cleaner in through one of the holes and then push out through the hole which is diagonally opposite.
- Do the same with the other 3 pipe cleaners so there are 8 legs altogether.
- Paint the cardboard and pipe cleaners black.
- Decorate with eyes and fangs.
- If you want to hang your spider up, tape some thread or string to the top.

Planting Hair Seeds

Materials needed: paper of Styrofoam cups, crayons and markers, potting soil, bean or grass seeds (they sprout the fastest), water
Have your child draw a face on the cup with crayons or marker.
Put some potting soil in the cup so it's almost full.
Have your child place some seeds in the dirt.
Cover with some more dirt.
Help your child pour some water into the cup. (Not too much)
Have your child check the cup every day to see if it needs more water and if any sprouts are starting.
Eventually the happy face on the cup will have hair.

When making crafts ... how the craft looks when it is done is not as important as the fun your child has making it